

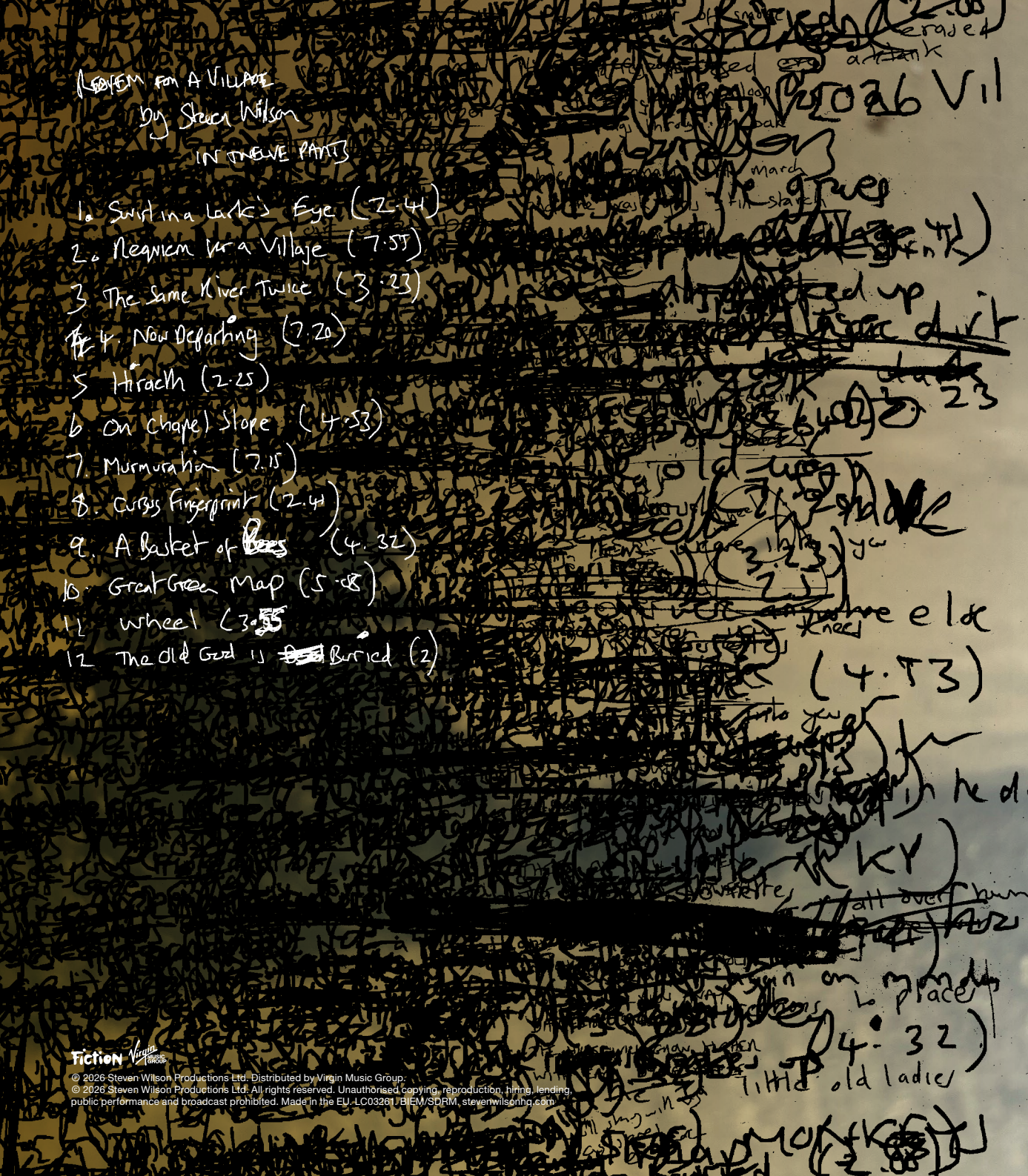

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Requiem for a Village

1. Swirl in a Lark's Eye (2.41)
2. Requiem for a Village (7.55)
3. The Same River Twice (3.23)
4. Now Departing (7.20)
5. Hiraeth (2.25)
6. On Chapel Slope (4.53)
7. Murmuration (7.15)
8. Cursus Fingerprint (2.41)
9. A Basket of Bees (4.32)
10. Great Green Map (5.08)
11. Wheel (3.55)
12. The Old God is Buried (2.00)

Performed by SW, Randy McStine, and Russell Holzman, with narration by David Tennant
Produced and mixed by SW July 2025 through April 2026
Additional production input by Andy Partridge and Randy McStine

Music by Steven Wilson except 5, 7, 11 music by Steven Wilson and Randy McStine
Narration passages written by Andy Partridge
Lyrics on 6, 7 and 10 by Andy Partridge
Lyrics on 3 and 9 by Andy Partridge / Steven Wilson
Lyrics on 2, 4, 11 by Steven Wilson

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Photo Tech - Edwin Ingram

All other photography - Richard Barbieri, Tomasz Desperak, Doug Hamm, Carl Glover/Carl Glover Archive, Michael Kicker, and Richard Shipp
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To my great champions: Penny, Miles and Rob Skarin, Michael Roe, Jim Chancellor, Lois Freedman, and Robin Turner

To the other members of my incredible live band:
Adam Holzman, Craig Blundell and Nick Beggs
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All my love to my family; Rotem, Mia, Yali, Bowie, Lenny, and Frankie xxx

1. **Swirl in a Lark's Eye**
SW - harmonium, hand percussion, acoustic guitar, autoharp, strings, arp 2600, shortwave radio, sound design
David Tennant - narration

2. **Requiem for a Village**
SW - lead vocals, bass guitar, guitar, mellotron, arp 2600, percussion, piano, oboe, sound design
Randy McStine - guitar (including solo), backing vocals, arp odyssey, mellotron, lyre harp
Russell Holzman - drums

3. **The Same River Twice**
SW - lead vocals, piano, korg ps-3300, glockenspiel, mellotron, arp 2600
David Tennant - narration

4. **Now Departing**
SW - lead vocals, piano, guitar, bass guitar, strings, fender rhodes, mellotron, arp 2600, solina strings, acoustic guitars, percussion
Randy McStine - electric guitar (including solo), backing vocals, toy piano, accordion, arp odyssey, poly d, roland sh-2000, mellotron, percussion
Russell Holzman - drums
Adam Holzman - modular synthesiser

5. **Hiraeth**
SW - piano, arp 2600, bass guitar, mellotron, sound design
Randy McStine - slide guitar, poly d, accordion

6. **On Chapel Slope**
SW - lead vocals, violin, drums, electric guitar, piano, bass guitar, melodica, prophet VI, arp 2600, recorder, percussion, chanting
Randy McStine - acoustic guitar, sound design, desktop, percussion, chanting

7. **Murmuration**
SW - lead vocals, korg ps3300, prophet VI, arp 2600, acoustic guitar, percussion, violin, banjo, wurlitzer, piano, autoharp, moog sub37, harmonium, drums, sound design
Randy McStine - nashville acoustic guitar, electric guitar, backing vocals, bass guitar, percussion, bass drum, cymbal, lyre harp, theremin, yamaha cp80, piano
Katherine Priddy - vocals on 'cruel sister'
David Tennant - narration

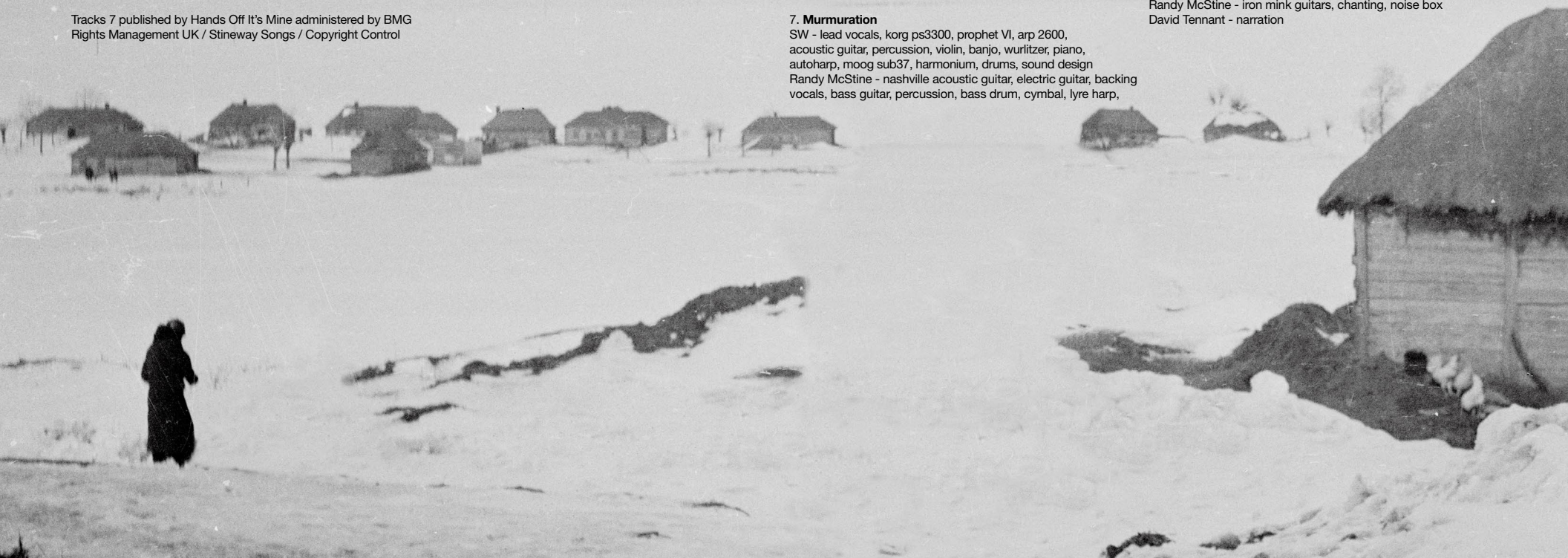
8. **Cursus Fingerprint**
SW - piano, glockenspiel, harp, acoustic guitars, vocals, mellotron, vocals, drums, harmonium, melodica, sound design
Randy McStine - iron mink guitars, sound design
Lee Harris - psychedelic guitar
David Tennant - narration

9. **A Basket of Bees**
SW - lead vocals, piano, wurlitzer, electric guitar, bass, autoharp, acoustic guitar, electric piano, percussion, korg ps-3300, mellotron
Randy McStine - electric 6 and 12-string guitars (including solo), backing vocals, rimshots, hi-hat
Russell Holzman - drums

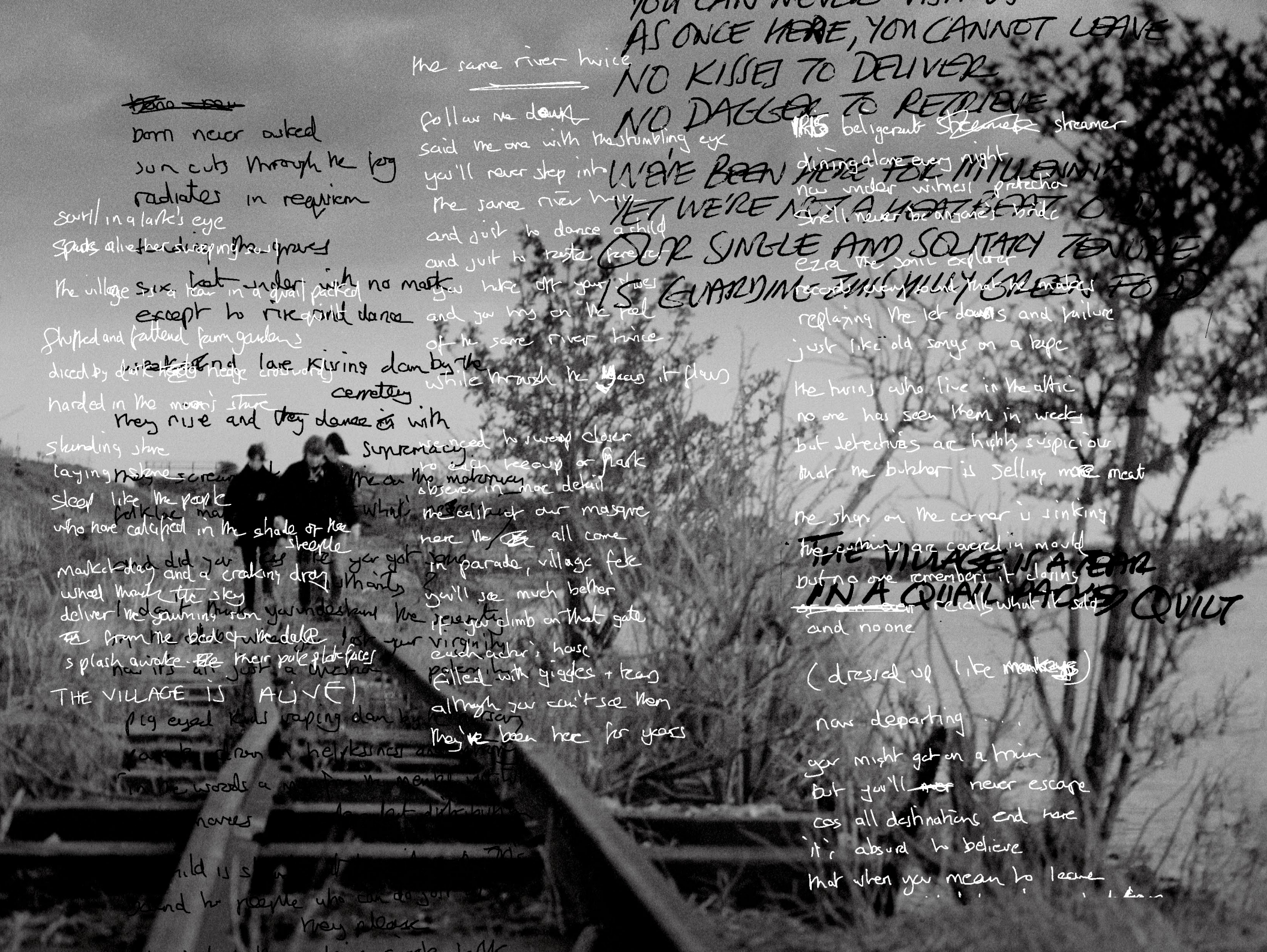
10. **Great Green Map**
SW - lead vocals, piano, horns, glockenspiel, acoustic guitar, mellotron, solina strings, bass guitar, sound design
Randy McStine - nashville acoustic guitars, electric guitar, beach mink vocals, drum fills
David Tennant - narration

11. **Wheel**
SW - lead vocals, piano, wurlitzer, electric guitar, bass, autoharp, acoustic guitars, drums, mellotron, arp2600, percussion, solina strings, sound design
Randy McStine - electric guitar (including solo), backing vocals, toy piano, mellotron, random tone generator
Russell Holzman - drums

12. **The Old God is Buried**
SW - hand percussion, violins, sound design, arp 2600, drum machine, chanting
Randy McStine - iron mink guitars, chanting, noise box
David Tennant - narration







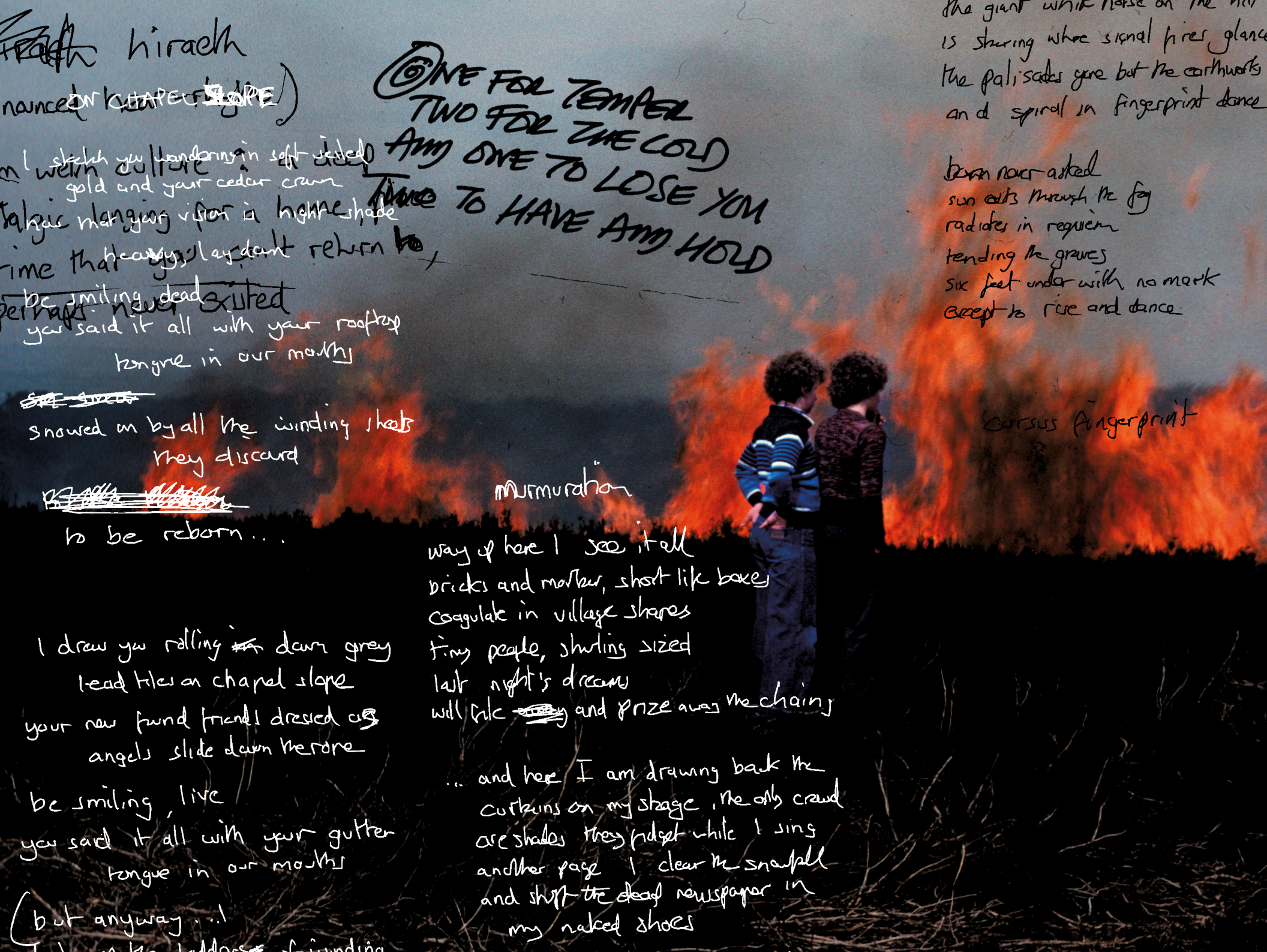
YOU CAN NEVER VISIT US
AS ONCE HERE, YOU CANNOT LEAVE
NO KISSES TO DELIVER
NO DAGGER TO RETRIEVE
WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR MILLENNIA
YET WE'RE NOT A HEAT BEAT OLD
OUR SINGLE AND SOLITARY TENURE
IS GUARDING THIS MILLY GREEN FOLD

~~[illegible]~~
born never asked
sun cuts through the fog
radiates in requiem
soul in a lark's eye
sparks alive [illegible] the graves
the village is a tear in a quail packed
six feet under with no mark
except to rise and dance
stuffed and fattened farm gardens
diced by dark hedge crossword
harded in the moon's stare
[illegible] and lore kissing dam by the cemetery
they rise and they dance with supremacy
standing stare
laying stone screen [illegible] the on the motorway
sleep like the people [illegible] what's
folklore ma[illegible]
who have calcified in the shade of the steeple
market day did you [illegible] the you got
and a creaking drag [illegible]
wheel through the sky
deliver the gawning [illegible] you understand the
from the bed of the dale [illegible] your
splash awake [illegible] their pale plate faces
now it's all just a [illegible]
THE VILLAGE IS ALIVE!
pig eyed kids vaping dam by [illegible]
[illegible] helplessness [illegible]
[illegible] woods a [illegible]
[illegible] moves [illegible]
[illegible] child is s[illegible]
[illegible] to people who can do you [illegible]
they please

the same river twice
follow me down
said the one with the stumbling eye
you'll never step into
the same river twice
and just to dance a child
and just to taste forever
you take off your [illegible]
and you hang on the feel
of the same river twice
while through the years it flows
we need to swoop closer
to each teacup or flask
observe in more detail
the cast of our masque
here the all come
in parade, village fete
you'll see much better
if you climb on that gate
each actor's house
filled with giggles + tears
although you can't see them
they've been here for years

IRIS beligerant ~~streamer~~ streamer
dining alone every night
now under witness protection
shell never be anyone's bride
ezra the sonic explorer
records every sound that he makes
replaying the let downs and failure
just like old songs on a tape
the twins who live in the attic
no one has seen them in weeks
but detectives are highly suspicious
that the butcher is selling more meat
the shop on the corner is sinking
the cushions are covered in mould
but no one remembers it closing
~~[illegible]~~ recalls what it sold
and no one
(dressed up like monkeys)
now departing . . .
you might get on a train
but you'll ~~[illegible]~~ never escape
cos all destinations end here
it's absurd to believe
that when you mean to leave





~~Fraeth~~ hiraeth

nounced ~~[illegible]~~)

I sketch you wandering in soft jeeled
gold and your cedar crown
Jaguar that your vision is a higher shade
time that you slay don't return to,
~~be smiling dead~~
perhaps never existed
you said it all with your rooftop
tongue in our mouths

~~[illegible]~~
snowed on by all the winding sheets
they discard

~~[illegible]~~
to be reborn...

I draw you rolling ~~in~~ down grey
lead tiles on chapel slope
your new found friends dressed as
angels slide down the rope

be smiling, live
you said it all with your gutter
tongue in our mouths

(but anyway...!
[illegible] the buddhist of winding

ONE FOR TEMPER
TWO FOR THE COLD
AND ONE TO LOSE YOU
TIME TO HAVE AND HOLD

murmuration

way up here I see it all
bricks and mortar, short life boxes
coagulate in village shares
tiny people, shirling sized
last night's dreams
will file ~~away~~ and prize away the chains

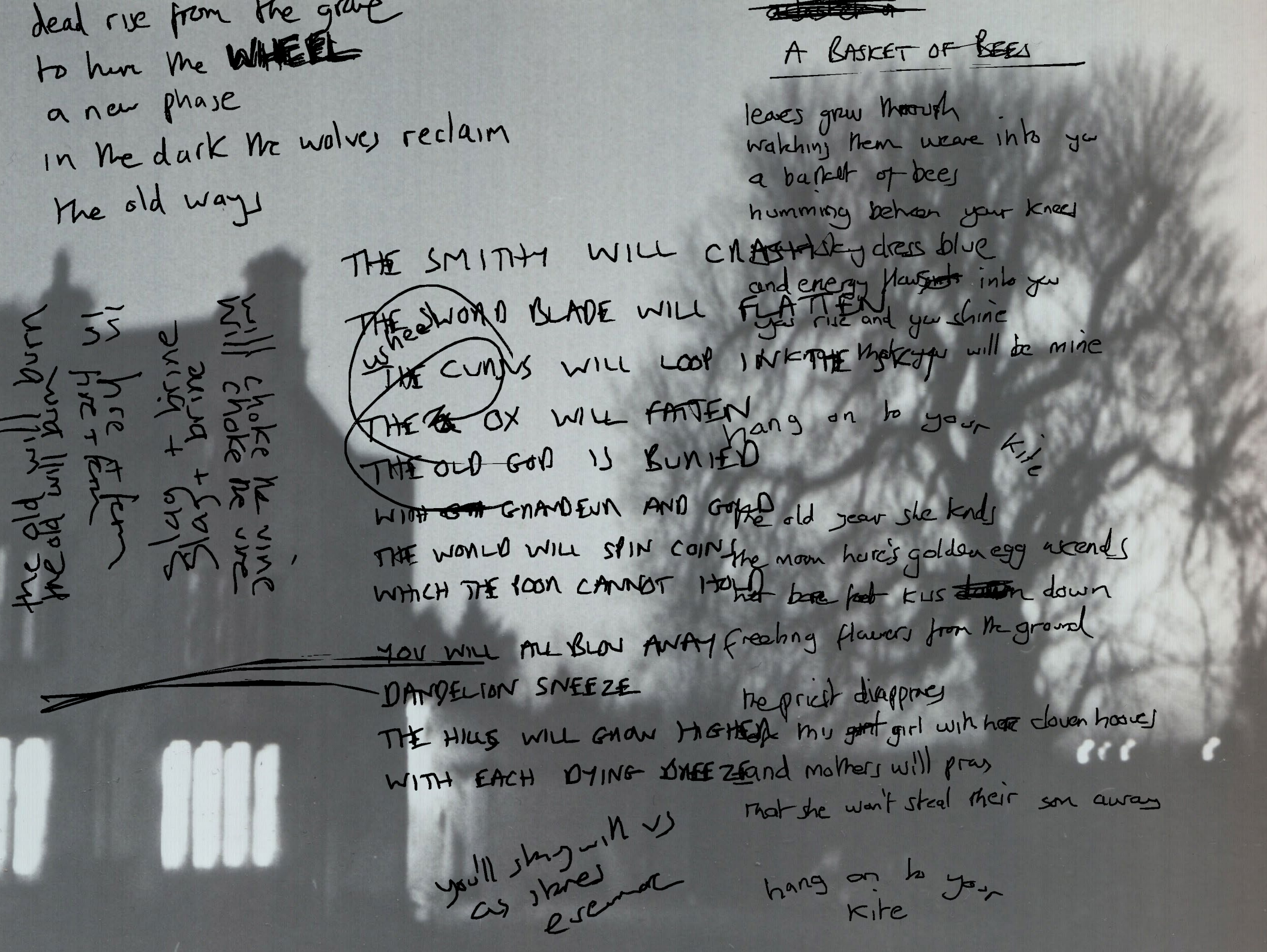
... and here I am drawing back the
curtains on my stage, the only crowd
are shades they fidget while I sing
another page I clear the snowfall
and stuff the dead newspaper in
my naked shoes

the giant white horse on the hill
is staring where signal fires glance
the palisades gone but the earthworks
and spiral in fingerprint dance

born never asked
sun exits through the fog
radiates in requiem
tending the graves
six feet under with no mark
except to rise and dance

cursus fingerprint





dead rise from the grave
to hurn the WHEEL
a new phase
in the dark the wolves reclaim
the old ways

~~[illegible]~~

A BASKET OF BEES

leaves grow through
watching them weave into you
a basket of bees
humming between your knees
sky dress blue
and energy flows into you
you rise and you shine
that you will be mine

THE SMITHY WILL CRASH
THE SWORD BLADE WILL FLATTEN
wheel
THE CURSUS WILL LOOP IN THE SKY
THE OX WILL FATTEN
THE OLD GOD IS BURIED
WITH GRANDEUR AND GOLD
THE WORLD WILL SPIN COINS
WHICH THE POOR CANNOT HOLD

YOU WILL ALL BLOW AWAY
DANDELION SNEEZE
THE HILLS WILL GROW HIGHER
WITH EACH DYING BREEZE

hang on to your kite

the old year she ends
the moon hare's golden egg ascends
her bare feet kiss down
freeing flowers from the ground

the priest disappears
this girl with her cloven hooves
and mothers will pray
that she won't steal their son away

you'll stay with us
as stones
eternal

hang on to your
kite

the old will burn
the old will burn
wrong + fern
wrong + fern
slag + brine
slag + brine
wine
wine
choke the vine
choke the vine

